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[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/485)*]

70/137. Rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming all of its previous resolutions on the rights of the child, the most recent of which was resolution 69/157 of 18 December 2014, and in particular recognizing the importance of resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, in which it adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 69/158 of 18 December 2014 on protecting children from bullying and 69/187 of 18 December 2014 on migrant children and adolescents,

Emphasizing that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, reaffirming that States parties to the Convention shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized therein, while bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention [2] and calling for their universal ratification and effective implementation, as well as that of other human rights instruments,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[3] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[4] the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,[5] the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[6] the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[7] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[2] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.

[3] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[5] Ibid., vol. 2716, No. 48088.

[6] Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.

[7] Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.

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against Transnational Organized Crime,[8] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[9]

Reaffirming that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development, provide the framework for actions concerning children,

Reaffirming also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[10] the United Nations Millennium Declaration[11] and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[12] recalling the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[13] the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,[14] the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition,[15] the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[16] and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,[17] the Declaration on the Right to Development,[18] the Declaration of the commemorative high-level plenary meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children, held in New York from 11 to 13 December 2007,[19] the outcome document, entitled "The future we want", adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,[20] and the outcome document of the third Global Conference on Child Labour, held in Brasilia from 8 to 10 October 2013, and recalling also the World Congresses against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development[21] and the World Education Forum 2015, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 19 to 22 May 2015,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[22] and underscoring the importance of its implementation in ensuring the enjoyment of the rights of the child,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on progress made towards achieving the commitments set out in the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly[23] and on the status of the Convention on the

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[8] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[9] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[10] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[11] Resolution 55/2.

[12] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

[13] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[14] See resolution 2542 (XXIV).

[15] *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5–16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

[16] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[17] Resolution 69/2.

[18] Resolution 41/128, annex.

[19] Resolution 62/88.

[20] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[21] See A/69/76, annex, enclosure 2.

[22] Resolution 70/1.

[23] A/70/265.

Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in Assembly resolution 69/157,[24] as well as the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,[25] the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict[26] and the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[27] whose recommendations should be carefully studied, taking fully into account the views of Member States,

Reaffirming that States have the primary responsibility to respect, promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of the child,

Acknowledging the important role played by national governmental structures for children, including, where they exist, ministries and institutions in charge of child, family and youth issues and independent ombudspersons for children or other national institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

Recognizing that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children, in the best interests of the child, and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Noting with appreciation the work to promote and protect the rights of the child carried out by all relevant organs, bodies, entities and organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, by relevant mandate holders and special procedures of the United Nations and by relevant regional organizations, where appropriate, and intergovernmental organizations, and recognizing the valuable role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains negatively affected by the prolonged effects of the world financial and economic crisis, poverty and inequality, and reaffirming that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, recognizing its impact beyond the socioeconomic context and the intrinsic interlinkage between poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development, and in this regard underlining the importance of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Profoundly concerned also that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical, in an increasingly globalized environment, as a result of the persistence of poverty, social inequality, inadequate social and economic conditions, pandemics, in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, environmental damage, climate change, natural disasters, armed conflict, foreign occupation, displacement, violence, terrorism, abuse, all forms of exploitation, including for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation of children, such as child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism, and trafficking in children, including for the purpose of organ removal and for the transfer of organs of the child for profit,

[24] A/70/315.
[25] A/70/289.
[26] A/70/162.
[27] A/70/222.

neglect, illiteracy, hunger, intolerance, discrimination, racism, xenophobia, gender inequality, disability and inadequate legal protection, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Expressing deep concern that, despite the recognition of the right of the child to express his or her views freely on all matters affecting him or her, with his or her views given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child, children are still seldom seriously consulted and involved in such matters owing to a variety of constraints and impediments and that the full implementation of this right has yet to be fully realized,

Deeply concerned that children disproportionately suffer the consequences of discrimination, exclusion, inequality and poverty,

Deeply concerned also that approximately 6 million children under the age of 5 die each year, mostly from preventable and treatable causes, owing to inadequate or lack of access to integrated and quality maternal, newborn and child health care and services, to early childbearing, as well as lack of access to health determinants, such as safe drinking water and sanitation, safe and adequate food and nutrition, including breastfeeding, and that mortality remains highest among children belonging to the poorest and most marginalized communities,

Recognizing that a strong focus is needed on poverty, deprivation and inequality to prevent and protect children from all forms of violence and to promote the resilience of children, their families and communities,

Recognizing also the large and growing number of migrant children, including those unaccompanied or separated from their parents or primary caregivers, and especially those who find themselves in a vulnerable situation by attempting to cross international borders without the required travel documents,

Taking into special consideration the situation of child refugees, internally displaced children and child asylum seekers, in particular those unaccompanied or separated from their parents,

I

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto

1. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 1 to 10 of its resolution 68/147 of 18 December 2013, and welcomes the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the involvement of children in armed conflict;[28]

2. *Welcomes* the increasing number of ratifications of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1] and urges States that have not yet done so to consider acceding to it and to the Optional Protocols thereto[2] as a matter of priority and to implement them effectively and fully, and encourages further efforts by the Secretary-General in this regard;

[28] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.

3. *Notes* the entry into force on 14 April 2014 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure,[29] and calls upon States to consider its accession, ratification and implementation;

4. *Urges* States parties to withdraw reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or the Optional Protocols thereto and to consider reviewing regularly other reservations with a view to withdrawing them in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;[10]

5. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and, taking into account the adoption of its general comments and its actions to follow up on its concluding observations on the implementation of the Convention and recommendations, calls upon all States to strengthen their cooperation with the Committee, to comply in a timely manner with their reporting obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto, in accordance with the guidelines elaborated by the Committee, and to take into account its recommendations, observations and general comments on the implementation of the Convention;

6. *Also welcomes* the attention paid to the rights of the child by the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and, in this regard, their contribution to the progress achieved in the promotion and the protection of the rights of children;

II

Promotion and protection of the rights of the child and non-discrimination against children

Non-discrimination

7. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 11 to 14 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon States to ensure the enjoyment by all children of all their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights without discrimination of any kind;

8. *Notes with concern* the large number of children belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, migrant children, refugee or asylum-seeking children, internally displaced children, and children of indigenous origin who are victims of discrimination, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stresses the need to incorporate special measures, in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child and respect for his or her views and the child's gender-specific needs, including children with special needs, in education programmes and programmes to combat these practices, and calls upon States to provide special support and to ensure equal access to services for those children;

9. *Urges* all States to respect, protect and promote the right of girls and boys to express themselves freely, and their right to be heard, to ensure that their views are given due weight, in accordance with their age and maturity, in all matters affecting them, and to involve children, including children with special needs, in decision-making processes, taking into account the evolving capacities of children and the importance of involving children's organizations and child-led initiatives;

[29] Resolution 66/138, annex.

10. *Recognizes* that discrimination against any child on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the child, and expresses grave concern that children with disabilities face violations of their human rights, as well as discriminatory, attitudinal and environmental barriers to their participation and inclusion in society and in the community;

Registration, family relations, adoption and alternative care

11. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 15 to 19 of its resolution 68/147, and urges all States parties to intensify their efforts to comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect children in matters relating to registration, family relations and adoption or other forms of alternative care, and, in cases of international parental or familial child abduction, encourages States to consider accession to or ratification of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction,[30] which takes into consideration the principle of the best interests of the child, and to engage in bilateral and, when appropriate, multilateral cooperation to resolve those cases by facilitating, inter alia, the return of the child to his or her country of habitual residence, where the appropriate court can make a custody decision, taking into consideration the principle of the best interests of the child;

Economic and social well-being of children

12. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 20 to 29 of its resolution 68/147, calls upon all States and the international community to create an environment in which the well-being of the child is ensured, including by strengthening international cooperation in this field and by implementing their commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and affirms that investment in children has high economic and social returns and that all related efforts to ensure that resources allocated and spent for children should serve as a means for the fulfilment of the rights of the child;

13. *Emphasizes* the role of international cooperation in support of national and subnational efforts and in raising the capacities, including at the community level, for the fulfilment of the rights of the child, through, inter alia, the enhancement of cooperation with the human rights mechanisms, relevant United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, including through the provision of technical and financial assistance, upon the request of and in accordance with the priorities set by the States concerned;

14. *Calls upon* all States and the international community to cooperate, support and participate in the global efforts towards poverty eradication, by fulfilling their previous commitments, implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[22] and mobilizing all necessary resources and support in that regard, according to national plans and strategies, including through an integrated and multifaceted approach based on the rights and well-being of children;

Child labour

15. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 30 to 33 of its resolution 68/147, and urges States to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour and to end child labour in all its forms, by 2025 at the latest, and to promote education as a key strategy in this regard;

[30] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1343, No. 22514.

16. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying both the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182),[31] and the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138),[32] of the International Labour Organization;

17. *Recognizes* that poverty and social exclusion, labour mobility, discrimination and lack of adequate social protection and educational opportunity as well as lack of birth registration all influence child labour;

Prevention and elimination of violence against children

18. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 39 of its resolution 68/147 and paragraphs 47 to 62 of its resolution 62/141 of 18 December 2007 on the elimination of violence against children, condemns all forms of violence against children, and urges all States to implement the measures set out in paragraph 34 of its resolution 68/147 and paragraph 3 of its resolution 69/158 and:

(*a*) To take effective and appropriate legislative and other measures to prohibit, prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings, including harmful practices in all situations, and to strengthen international, national and local cooperation and mutual assistance in this regard;

(*b*) To protect children from all forms of violence, including by exercising due diligence, investigating, prosecuting and punishing the perpetrators of violence against all children and ending impunity, to provide protection as well as universal access to comprehensive social, physical and mental health and legal services and counselling for all victims and survivors, to ensure their full recovery and reintegration into society, and to address the structural and underlying causes of violence against all children through enhanced prevention measures, research and strengthened coordination and monitoring and evaluation;

(*c*) To address the gender dimension of all forms of violence against children and incorporate a gender perspective in all policies adopted and actions taken to protect children against all forms of violence and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation, acknowledging that girls and boys face varying risks from different forms of violence at different ages and in different situations;

19. *Also reaffirms* that violence against children is never justifiable and that it is the duty of States to protect children, including those in conflict with the law, from all forms of violence and human rights violations and to exercise due diligence to prohibit, prevent and investigate acts of violence against children, eliminate impunity and provide assistance to the victims, including preventing revictimization;

20. *Recalls* that 2016 will mark the tenth anniversary of the submission of the United Nations study on violence against children to the General Assembly,[33] and welcomes the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children in mainstreaming the study recommendations in the international, regional and national agenda;

21. *Strongly condemns* the abduction of children, and calls upon all States to take all appropriate measures to secure their unconditional release, rehabilitation

[31] Ibid., vol. 2133, No. 37245.

[32] Ibid., vol. 1015, No. 14862.

[33] See A/61/299.

and reintegration and their reunification with their families or legal guardians, in accordance with the best interests of the child;

22. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption of the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[34] encourages States to take effective measures for their dissemination and implementation, as appropriate, and invites relevant United Nations actors to support Member States, where appropriate, to this end through concerted efforts;

Promoting and protecting the rights of children, including children in particularly difficult situations

23. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 40 to 48 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon all States to promote and protect all human rights of all children, to implement evidence-based programmes and measures that provide them with special protection and assistance, including access to health care and inclusive and equitable quality education and social services, to consider implementing voluntary repatriation, reintegration where appropriate and feasible, family tracing and family reunification, in particular for children who are unaccompanied, and to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration;

24. *Calls upon* all States to ensure, for children belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups and children in vulnerable situations, including migrant children and indigenous children, as well as children placed in alternative care and within the juvenile justice system and in detention, the enjoyment of all human rights, as well as access to health care, social services and education, on an equal basis with others and to ensure that all such children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children and those who are victims of violence and exploitation, receive appropriate protection and assistance;

Migrant children

25. *Reaffirms* the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrant children, regardless of their migration status, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrant children, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

26. *Expresses the commitment* to protect the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, particularly unaccompanied migrant children, and to provide for their health, education and psychosocial development, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in policies of integration, return and family reunification;

Children and the administration of justice

27. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 49 to 57 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon all States to respect and protect the rights of children alleged to have infringed or

[34] Resolution 69/194, annex.

recognized as having infringed penal law, as well as children of persons alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law;

28. *Encourages* continued regional and cross-regional efforts, the sharing of best practices and the provision of technical assistance in the field of juvenile justice, acknowledges in this regard the holding of the World Congress on Juvenile Justice in Geneva, from 26 to 30 January 2015, and noting with interest its final declaration;

29. *Encourages* States to develop and implement a comprehensive juvenile justice policy to protect and address the needs of children in contact with the law, with a view to promoting, inter alia, a commitment to improving the quality of education available to children placed in alternative care and within the juvenile justice system, crime prevention programmes, the use of alternative measures, such as diversion, restorative justice and community-based programmes that focus on the rehabilitation and reintegration of the child, and ensuring compliance with the principle that deprivation of liberty of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, as well as to avoid, wherever possible, the use of pretrial detention for children;

Prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

30. *Reaffirms* paragraph 58 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon all States to prevent, criminalize, prosecute and punish all forms of the sale and trafficking of children, including for the purposes of removal of organs of the child for profit, child slavery, and the sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution and child pornography, with the aim of eradicating those practices and the use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies for these purposes, to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices and take measures to eliminate the demand that fosters them, as well as to address the rights and needs of victims effectively and take effective measures against the criminalization of children who are victims of exploitation;

Children affected by armed conflict

31. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 59 to 70 of its resolution 68/147, condemns in the strongest terms all violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict, and in this regard urges all States and other parties to armed conflict that are engaged, in contravention of applicable international law, in the recruitment and use of children, in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children, acknowledging that sexual violence in these situations disproportionately affects girls, in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals and related personnel, and in patterns of abduction of children, as well as in all other violations and abuses against children, to take time-bound and effective measures to end and prevent them, and takes note in this regard of the adoption of Security Council resolution 2225 (2015) of 18 June 2015;

32. *Urges* all States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society to give serious attention to, and to protect and assist child victims of, all violations and abuses

committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949;[35]

33. *Calls upon* States to protect children affected by armed conflict, in particular from violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and to ensure that they receive timely, effective humanitarian assistance, noting the efforts taken to end impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators, and calls upon the international community to hold those responsible for violations accountable, inter alia, through the International Criminal Court;

34. *Remains deeply concerned*, however, over the lack of progress on the ground in some situations and the deterioration in other situations where parties to armed conflict continue to violate with impunity the relevant provisions of applicable international law relating to the rights and protection of children in armed conflict;

35. *Expresses its deep concern* about attacks, as well as threats of attacks, in contravention of applicable international law against schools and/or hospitals, and protected persons in relation to them, welcomes the publication of the guidance note on Security Council resolution 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011 on attacks on schools and hospitals by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and takes note of the adoption of Security Council resolution 2143 (2014) of 7 March 2014;

36. *Welcomes* in this regard the "Children, not soldiers" campaign initiated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the United Nations Children's Fund, in collaboration with other United Nations partners, aimed at ending and preventing, by 2016, the recruitment and use of children by the national security forces concerned, and requests the Special Representative to report on progress in her next report to the General Assembly;

III

Right to education

37. *Reaffirms* that education is a fundamental human right, a basis for guaranteeing the realization of other human rights and is essential for sustainable development and the promotion of peace and tolerance, as well as key to achieving full employment and poverty eradication;

38. *Also reaffirms* the human right of everyone to education, which is enshrined in, inter alia, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, [36] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[3] the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[9] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[37] the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All

[35] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[36] Resolution 217 A (III).

[37] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[38] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[4] and in other relevant international instruments;

39. *Welcomes* the attention paid to the right to education of children by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Labour Organization and all relevant special representatives of the Secretary-General, as well as special procedures mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to education, in particular, the human rights treaty bodies and the operational activities of the United Nations system on the issue;

40. *Underlines* that full access to inclusive and equitable quality education and the promotion of lifelong learning at all levels is an essential precondition for achieving sustainable development and for the full realization of the right to education;

41. *Expresses its dismay* at the aggravation of attacks on educational institutions, their students and staff, in contravention of international humanitarian law, recognizes the grave impact that such attacks have on the full realization of the right to education, in particular of women and girls, and reiterates its condemnation in the strongest terms of all such attacks;

42. *Expresses its deep concern* about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, nearly two thirds of the world's non-literate adults are women;

43. *Notes with concern* that child, early and forced marriage disproportionally affects girls who have received little or no formal education and is itself a significant obstacle to educational opportunities for girls and young women, in particular girls who are forced to drop out of school owing to marriage and/or childbirth, recognizing that educational opportunities are directly related to women's and girls' empowerment, employment and economic opportunities and to their active participation in economic, social and cultural development, governance and decision-making;

44. *Notes* that evidence has shown that the States that have made the biggest investments in education are those that have achieved the highest gains in national income, economic growth and poverty reduction as well as in human development outcomes;

45. *Also notes* that the Oslo Summit on Education for Development, in its declaration of 7 July 2015, decided to establish the International Commission on the Financing of Global Education Opportunities, to be chaired by the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, and that the Commission will present its report to the Secretary-General in September 2016;

46. *Recognizes* that the right of the child to education can be severely hampered as a result of physical, psychological and sexual violence, as well as bullying, both in school and on the way to school, as well as online, which compromises learning outcomes and may lead to school dropout;

[38] Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.

47. *Also recognizes* that a large portion of the world's children out of school live in conflict-affected areas, in areas affected by outbreaks of communicable diseases, such as Ebola, and in regions stricken by natural disasters, and that this is a serious challenge to the realization of all the rights of the child as well as the fulfilment of international commitments on education, reaffirms the State's obligation to ensure that children continue to fully enjoy their human rights during conflict and post-conflict periods, as well as in other emergency situations, including, inter alia, the human right to education, and stresses in that context the importance of ensuring that children continue to have access to basic services in all such situations;

48. *Expresses its deep concern* about the growing number of attacks and threats of attacks against schools, and recognizes the grave impact of such attacks on children's and teachers' safety, as well as on the full realization of the right to education, also expresses its concern that the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international law may also affect the safety of children and teachers and the right of the child to education, and encourages all States to strengthen efforts to prevent the military use of schools in contravention of international law;

49. *Calls upon* all States to give full effect to the right to education for all children and in particular:

(*a*) To eliminate gender disparities in education and to ensure effective and equal access to inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational training, at all levels for all children without discrimination of any kind, particularly the vulnerable, including indigenous children, as well as children with disabilities and children in vulnerable or marginalized situations;

(*b*) To make primary education available, free and compulsory for all children;

(*c*) To take all appropriate measures to eliminate obstacles to effectively accessing and completing education, such as the cost of education, hunger and poor nutrition, distance from home to school, the institutionalization of children, armed conflicts, all forms of violence in school, insufficient infrastructure, including lack of access to water and sanitation, the lack of adequate and physically and otherwise accessible schooling facilities for girls, and child labour or heavy domestic work, and to ensure that children who are institutionalized also enjoy their right to education;

(*d*) To take all measures, including sufficient budgetary allocations, to ensure inclusive, equitable and non-discriminatory quality education and to promote learning opportunities for all children;

(*e*) To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against girls in the field of education and to ensure equal access for all girls to all levels of education, including through gender-responsive policies and programmes, improving the safety of girls on the way to and from school, taking steps to ensure that all schools are accessible, safe, secure and free from violence and providing separate and adequate sanitation facilities that provide privacy and dignity, and thereby contributing to achieving equal opportunity and combating exclusion and ensuring school attendance, including for girls as well as for children from low-income families, children who become heads of households and girls who are already married or pregnant;

(*f*) To promote the development of gender-responsive curricula for educational programmes at all levels and to take concrete measures to ensure that educational materials portray women and men, youth, girls and boys in positive and non-stereotypical roles, including in the teaching of scientific and technological subjects;

(*g*) To develop training programmes and materials for teachers and educators that promote equality, cooperation, mutual respect and shared responsibilities between girls and boys from pre-primary level onward;

(*h*) To adopt all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and human rights by taking all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, in accordance with the best interests of the child, to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse in schools, and in this context to take measures to promote non-violent forms of discipline in schools;

(*i*) To establish child-friendly and confidential counselling, complaints and reporting mechanisms to address incidents of violence, including sexual violence, against children in schools or on the way to or from school, and support the rehabilitation of child victims, as well as for the promotion of training and guidance for teachers and school staff to detect and report cases of violence against children to the relevant authorities;

(*j*) To prevent and protect children from bullying, including cyberbullying and other online risks such as sexual violence and online exploitation, by generating statistical information, promptly and adequately responding to such acts, providing appropriate support and counselling to children affected by and involved in bullying, recognizing the important role that schools can play in preventing and responding to such incidents and in promoting online safety, through close collaboration between governments, teachers, parents, communities, the private sector, civil society, non-governmental organizations and children themselves;

(*k*) To ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education;

(*l*) To strengthen the role of education, including human rights education, as the most effective means of promoting tolerance, in preventing the spread of extremism by instilling respect for human rights and promoting the practice of non-violence, moderation, dialogue and cooperation, calling upon all States, the specialized agencies of the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to this endeavour by, inter alia, placing emphasis on civic education and life skills as well as democratic principles and practices at all levels of formal, informal and non-formal education;

(*m*) To take all feasible measures to protect schools from attacks, as well as persons entitled to protection in relation to them in situations of armed conflict, and to refrain from actions that impede children's access to education;

(*n*) To ensure, as primary duty-bearers, the realization of the right to education in all phases of emergency situations and to implement strategies and policies in this regard as an integral element of humanitarian assistance and humanitarian response, to the maximum of their available resources, with the support of the international community, the United Nations system, donors, multilateral agencies, the private sector, civil society and non-governmental organizations;

(*o*) To ensure inclusive quality education, including by strengthening inputs, processes and evaluation of learning outcomes and mechanisms to measure and monitor progress, including by collecting disaggregated data, as well as by ensuring that teachers and educators are empowered, adequately recruited, well-trained, qualified, motivated and well supported with well-resourced, efficient and effectively governed systems, recognizing the importance of regional and international cooperation in this regard;

(*p*) To further ensure relevant and effective learning outcomes and ensure the acquisition of the foundational skills of literacy and numeracy, as well as analytical, problem-solving and other high-level cognitive, interpersonal and social skills;

(*q*) To take specific measures to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the right of the child to engage in play and recreational activities, in particular by promoting the provision of a school curriculum that allows for sufficient opportunity for play and recreational activities, including physical education and sport;

(*r*) To integrate human rights education and training, education for democracy, along with civic education and education for sustainable development into national and subnational education standards, and in this regard to develop and strengthen national and subnational programmes, curricular and extracurricular educational activities and to implement, as appropriate, the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development;[21]

(*s*) To adopt legislative and other appropriate measures with a view to realizing the right to education for children with disabilities, on the basis of equal opportunity, and to ensure an inclusive education system at all levels that provides reasonable accommodation of the child's needs, along with the required effective individualized support measures in environments to maximize academic and social development, within the general education system, and consistent with the goal of full inclusion, which facilitates effective education;

(*t*) To take all appropriate measures to safeguard the realization of the right to education for indigenous children, including their access to quality education, on the basis of equal opportunity, in a manner conducive to their fullest possible social inclusion and individual development, including through the provision of compulsory primary education that is available free to all and, when possible, is provided in their own language, and to take all appropriate measures to make all other levels and all forms of education available and accessible to indigenous children without discrimination;

(*u*) To develop and implement educational programmes and teaching materials, including comprehensive evidence-based education on human sexuality, based on full and accurate information, for all adolescents and youth, in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities, with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders, in order to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, to eliminate prejudices and to promote and build decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills for the development of respectful relationships based on gender equality and human rights, as well as teacher education and training programmes for both formal and non-formal education;

(*v*) To measure progress in the realization of the right to education, by, for example, developing national indicators as an important tool for the realization of the right to education and for policy formulation, impact assessment and transparency;

50. *Urges* all States and all relevant stakeholders to give high priority to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the education-related Sustainable Development Goal and targets;

IV

Follow-up

51. *Expresses support* for the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, and recognizes the progress achieved since the establishment of her mandate in promoting the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children in all regions and in advancing the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence against children,[33] including through her regional and thematic consultations and field missions, and thematic reports addressing emerging concerns;

52. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General extend the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, as established in paragraphs 58 and 59 of its resolution 62/141, for a further three years, and maintain support for the effective and independent performance and the sustainability of the mandate of the Special Representative, funded from the regular budget;

53. *Urges* all States, requests United Nations entities and agencies, and invites regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children in promoting further implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence against children, and encourages States to provide support to the Special Representative, including adequate voluntary financial support for the continued, effective and independent performance of her mandate, and invites organizations, including the private sector, to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose;

54. *Recalls* its resolution 69/157, in which it invited the Secretary General to commission an in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty, to be funded through voluntary contributions, and in this regard encourages Member States, United Nations agencies, funds, programmes and offices, as well as other relevant stakeholders to support the elaboration of the study;

55. *Decides*:

(*a*) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in the present resolution, with a focus on migrant children;

(*b*) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda;

(*c*) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to continue to submit annual reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, consistent with paragraphs 58 and 59 of its resolution

62/141, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the violence against children agenda;

(*d*) To request the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography agenda;

(*e*) To invite the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-first session as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

(*f*) To continue its consideration of the question at its seventy-first session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", focusing section III of the resolution entitled "Rights of the child" on the theme "Migrant children".

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[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/485)*]

70/138. The girl child

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 68/146 of 18 December 2013 and all relevant resolutions on the girl child, and recalling its resolution 66/170 of 19 December 2011 on the International Day of the Girl Child and the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in particular those relevant to the girl child,

Recalling all human rights and other instruments relevant to the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[2] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[3] the Optional Protocols thereto[4] and the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages,[5]

Welcoming the adoption of the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",[6] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[7] and reaffirming other internationally agreed development goals and commitments relevant to the girl child,

Reaffirming all relevant outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences relevant to the girl child, including the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[2] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[3] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[4] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531, and resolution 66/138, annex; United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378; and ibid., vol. 2518, No. 44910.

[5] Ibid., vol. 521, No. 7525.

[6] Resolution 70/1.

[7] Resolution 69/313, annex.

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world fit for children",[8] the Beijing Declaration[9] and Platform for Action,[10] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[11] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[12] the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[13] the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted at the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, entitled "Global Crisis — Global Action",[14] and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS adopted by the high-level meetings of the General Assembly held in 2006[15] and 2011,[16] and reiterating that their full and effective implementation is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing that chronic poverty remains one of the biggest obstacles to meeting the needs of and promoting and protecting the rights of children, including the girl child, and that poverty continues to impede access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, among other basic social services for children,

Recognizing also that urgent national and international action is required to eliminate poverty, in particular extreme poverty, and noting that the ongoing effects of the global financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and continuing food insecurity as a result of various factors are felt directly by households, especially those headed by girls,

Recognizing further that social protection, education, adequate health care, nutrition, full access to clean water, including safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, skills development and combating discrimination and violence against girls, among other things, are all necessary for the empowerment of the girl child, and recalling the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective across the United Nations system in relation to the girl child,

Deeply concerned about the serious social problem of child-headed households, in particular those headed by girls, which may result from the death of parents and legal guardians and other economic, social and political realities, and that the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, including illness and mortality, the erosion of the extended family, the exacerbation of poverty, unemployment and underemployment and migration, as well as urbanization, have contributed to the increase in the number of child-headed households,

Deeply concerned also about the extreme vulnerability of children who are heads of households and those raised in child-headed households, particularly girls, who suffer from the lack of adult support and may be particularly vulnerable to

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[8] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[10] Ibid., annex II.

[11] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[12] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[13] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[14] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

[15] Resolution 60/262, annex.

[16] Resolution 65/277, annex.

poverty, mental and psychosocial trauma and physical vulnerability and may be exceptionally negatively affected by the economic and care burdens placed on them at a young age, which in turn may lead to their having difficulty completing their education and increase their vulnerability to poverty, discrimination, trafficking and physical abuse,

Deeply concerned further that, in situations of poverty, armed conflict, climate-related and other hazards, natural disasters, disease outbreaks and other humanitarian emergencies, the incidence of child-headed households increases and makes girl children particularly vulnerable to poverty, physical and sexual violence and abuse, and discrimination, thus limiting their potential for full development,

Deeply concerned about the lack of recent information and statistics on the status of child-headed households and the need for such information to inform appropriate policy responses by Member States and the United Nations system,

Noting with disappointment that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 68/146 [17] did not contain any information on the implementation of the priority theme of that resolution, namely, the situation of child-headed households,

Recognizing that women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV infection and that they bear a disproportionate burden of the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, including the care of and support for those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and that this negatively affects girls by depriving them of their childhood and diminishing their opportunities to receive an education, often resulting in their having to head households and increasing their vulnerability to the worst forms of child labour and to sexual exploitation,

Noting with concern that millions of girls are engaged in child labour and its worst forms, including those who have been victims of trafficking in persons and affected by armed conflict and humanitarian emergencies, that children without nationality or birth registration are vulnerable to trafficking in persons and child labour and that many children face the double burden of having to combine economic activities with domestic chores, which deprive them of their childhood and diminish their opportunities to benefit from education and decent employment in the future, and noting in this regard the need to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work,

Recognizing that girl children are often at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence and forced labour, which, among other things, would hinder efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those goals that are relevant to gender equality and the empowerment of girls, and reaffirming the need to achieve gender equality to ensure a just and equitable world for girls, including through partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for advancing the rights of the girl child,

Recognizing also that the empowerment of and investment in girls, which is critical for economic growth, and the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals, including the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty, as well as the meaningful participation of girls in decisions that affect them, are key in breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and in promoting and protecting the full

[17] A/70/267.

and effective enjoyment of their human rights, and recognizing further that empowering girls requires their active participation in decision-making processes and as agents of change in their own lives and communities, including through girls' organizations with the active support and engagement of their parents, legal guardians, families and care providers, boys and men, as well as the wider community,

Deeply concerned about all forms of violence against children, in particular the phenomena that disproportionately affect girls, such as commercial sexual exploitation and child pornography, rape, sexual abuse, domestic violence, trafficking in persons and the use of information and communications technology and social media to perpetrate violence against women and girls, and, in addition, about the corresponding impunity and lack of accountability, and that violence against women and girls is underrecognized and underreported, particularly at the community level, which reflects discriminatory norms that reinforce the lower status of girls in society,

Deeply concerned also about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, including girls with disabilities, which often result in less access for girls to education, and to quality education, nutrition, including food allocation, and physical and mental health-care services, in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys, and in leaving them more vulnerable than boys to the consequences of unprotected and premature sexual relations and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and violence, abuse, rape, incest, honour-related crimes and harmful practices, such as female infanticide, child, early and forced marriage, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

Deeply concerned further that despite its widespread practice, child, early and forced marriage is still underreported, recognizing that this requires further attention and that child, early and forced marriage exposes the girl child to greater risk of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, often leads to premature sexual relations, early pregnancy and early childbearing and increases the risk of obstetric fistula and high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity, and furthermore entails complications during pregnancy and childbirth, which often lead to disability, stillbirth and maternal death, particularly for young women and girls, which require appropriate prenatal and postnatal health-care services for mothers, including in the area of skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care, and noting with concern that this reduces girls' opportunities to complete their education, gain comprehensive knowledge, participate in the community or develop employable skills and is likely to have a long-term adverse impact on their employment opportunities, their quality of life and that of their children, and violates and impairs the full enjoyment of their human rights,

Stressing the need for the international community, the relevant United Nations entities, the specialized agencies, civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of enhanced financial resources and technical assistance, targeted comprehensive programmes that address the needs and priorities of child-headed households and the water, sanitation and hygiene needs of the girl child,

Emphasizing that increased and equal access to quality education for young people, especially adolescent girls, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, as well as health care, hygiene and sanitation, dramatically lowers their

vulnerability to preventable diseases and infections, in particular HIV and other sexually transmitted infections,

1. *Stresses* the need for the full and urgent implementation of the rights of the girl child as provided to her under human rights instruments, and urges States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[2] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[3] and the Optional Protocols thereto[4] as a matter of priority;

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138),[18] and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182),[19] of the International Labour Organization to consider doing so;

3. *Urges* States to improve the situation of girl children living in poverty, in particular extreme poverty, deprived of adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation facilities, with limited or no access to basic physical and mental health-care services, shelter, education, participation and protection, taking into account that, while a severe lack of goods and services hurts every human being, it is particularly threatening and harmful to the girl child and is further exacerbated by living in a child-headed household, leaving her unable to enjoy her rights, to reach her full potential and to participate as a full member of society;

4. *Calls upon* States to recognize the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination by making primary education compulsory and available free to all children, including those living in rural areas, and ensuring that all children have equal access to quality education, as well as making secondary and tertiary education available and accessible to all, in particular through the progressive introduction of free secondary education, bearing in mind that special measures to ensure equal access, including affirmative action, ensuring physical access to education, including by increasing financial incentives to families, improving the safety of girls on the way to and from school, ensuring that all schools are accessible, safe, secure and free from violence and providing hygienic, separate and adequate sanitation facilities, contribute to achieving equal opportunity and combating exclusion and ensuring school attendance, in particular for girls and children from low-income families and children who become heads of households;

5. *Calls upon* all States to place enhanced emphasis on quality education, including communications and technology education, where available, for the girl child, including catch-up and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, special initiatives for keeping girls in school through post-primary education, including those who are already married or pregnant, to promote access to skills and entrepreneurship training for young women and to tackle male and female stereotypes, in order to ensure that young women entering the labour market have opportunities to obtain full and productive employment, equitable compensation and decent work;

6. *Calls upon* States, with the support, where appropriate, of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, to develop policies and programmes, giving priority to formal, informal and non-formal education programmes, including age-appropriate sex education with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, that support girls and adolescent girls

[18] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14862.

[19] Ibid., vol. 2133, No. 37245.

and enable them to acquire relevant and adequate knowledge and information in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities, develop self-esteem and take responsibility for their own lives, and to place special focus on programmes to educate women and men, especially parents, about the importance of girls' physical and mental health and well-being and the need to develop and maintain respectful relationships between girls and boys;

7. *Urges* States to acknowledge the different needs of girls and boys during their childhood and adolescence and, as appropriate, to make adapted investments that are consistent with and responsive to their changing needs, in particular ensuring that girls have access to clean water, including safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and feminine hygiene products as well as private toilet facilities, including feminine hygiene product disposal facilities, in educational institutions and other public spaces, which will improve their health and access to education and increase their safety;

8. *Also urges* States to strengthen efforts to urgently eradicate all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and calls upon all States, the United Nations system and civil society to take measures to address the obstacles that continue to affect the achievement of the goals set forth in the Beijing Platform for Action,[10] as contained in paragraph 33 of the further actions and initiatives,[20] including reviewing remaining laws that discriminate against women and girls in order to modify or abolish them and, where appropriate, strengthening national mechanisms to implement policies and programmes for the girl child and, in some cases, to enhance coordination among responsible institutions for the realization of the human rights of girls, including fighting impunity for perpetrators of and ensuring the availability of appropriate penalties for crimes of sexual violence committed against the girl child, and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in order to achieve those goals;

9. *Further urges* States to ensure that the applicable requirements of the International Labour Organization for the employment of girls and boys are respected and effectively enforced and that girls who are employed have equal access to decent work and equal payment and remuneration for equal work or work of equal value, are protected from economic and sexual exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and abuse in the workplace, are aware of their rights and have access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, and urges States to develop gender-sensitive measures, including national action plans, where appropriate, to eliminate child labour and its worst forms, commercial sexual exploitation, hazardous forms of child labour, trafficking and slavery-like practices, including forced and bonded labour, and recruitment or use of children in armed conflict in violation of applicable international law, and to recognize that girls, including in child-headed households, face greater risks in this regard;

10. *Calls upon* States, with the support of relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, as appropriate, to take all measures necessary to ensure the right of girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and to develop sustainable health systems,

[20] Resolution S-23/3, annex.

strengthen existing ones to ensure primary health care with an integrated HIV response and make them more accessible to adolescent girls;

11. *Urges* all States to develop or review relevant programmes that promote gender equality and equal access to basic social services, such as education, nutrition, water and sanitation, birth registration, health care, vaccinations and protection from diseases representing the major causes of mortality, including non-communicable diseases, and to mainstream a gender perspective into all development policies and programmes, including those specific to the girl child;

12. *Calls upon* States to strengthen the capacity of national health systems, and in this regard invites the international community to assist national efforts, upon request, including by allocating adequate resources in order to provide the essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat those cases that occur by providing the continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal and postnatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care, to adolescent girls, including those living in poverty and in underserved rural areas where obstetric fistula is most common;

13. *Urges* all States to enact, uphold and strictly enforce laws and policies aimed at preventing and ending child, early and forced marriage and protecting those at risk and to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the informed, free and full consent of the intending spouses, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, to raise the minimum age for marriage, engage all relevant stakeholders, including girls, where necessary, and ensure that these laws are well known, to further develop and implement holistic, comprehensive and coordinated policies, plans of action and programmes and to support already married girls and adolescents and ensure the provision of viable alternatives and institutional support, especially educational opportunities for girls, to ensure the survival, protection, development and advancement of the girl child in order to promote and protect the full enjoyment of her human rights and to ensure equal opportunities for girls, including by making such plans an integral part of her total development process;

14. *Urges* States to ensure that the rights of children in child-headed households are respected and that the heads of such households exercise all the rights of the child and to further ensure that children in child-headed households, particularly girls, receive the support they need to ensure their continued attendance in school consistent with their age;

15. *Also urges* States to ensure that efforts to enact and implement legislation to protect, support and empower child-headed households, in particular those headed by girls, include provisions to ensure their economic well-being, including protecting their property and inheritance rights, access to health-care services, nutrition, clean water, including safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter and education, and inheritance, and that the family is protected and assisted in staying together;

16. *Further urges* States to forge partnerships with relevant stakeholders, particularly by working with and involving communities in developing programmes and mechanisms designed to ensure the safety and protection as well as the empowerment of children, especially girls, in child-headed households, and to ensure that they receive the support, including psychosocial support, they need from their communities;

17. *Calls upon* States to strengthen research on families and household formation and structure, with a particular emphasis on the existence of de facto child-headed households and the long-term economic and psychological impact that being a child head of a household or a child raised by another child has on children and on social sustainability;

18. *Also calls upon* States to strengthen research, data collection and analysis on the girl child, disaggregated by household structure, sex, age, disability status, economic situation, marital status and geographical location, and improve gender statistics on time use, unpaid care work and water and sanitation in order to provide a better understanding of the situations of girls, especially of the multiple forms of discrimination that they face, and to inform the development of necessary policies and programme responses, which should take a holistic age-appropriate approach to addressing the full range of the forms of discrimination that girls may face, in order to protect their rights effectively;

19. *Urges* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the full enjoyment by girls with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, on an equal basis with other children, and to adopt, implement and strengthen appropriate policies and programmes designed to address their needs;

20. *Urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence, discrimination, exploitation and harmful practices in all settings, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, trafficking and forced migration, forced labour and child, early and forced marriage, and to develop age-appropriate, safe, confidential and disability-accessible programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence and discrimination;

21. *Calls upon* all States to enact and enforce the necessary legislative or other measures, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and the media, to prevent the distribution over the Internet of child pornography, including depictions of child sexual abuse, ensuring that adequate mechanisms are in place to enable the reporting and removal of such material and that its creators, distributors and collectors are prosecuted, as appropriate;

22. *Urges* States to formulate or review as needed comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, which should have dedicated resources, be widely disseminated and provide targets and timetables for implementation, as well as effective domestic enforcement procedures through the establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women's organizations, giving attention to the recommendations relating to the girl child of the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children;

23. *Also urges* States to ensure that children who are capable of forming their own views have the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting them, with the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child, to ensure that this right is fully and equally enjoyed by the girl child, to meaningfully involve girl children, including those with special needs, as well as girls with disabilities, and their representative organizations in decision-

making processes, as appropriate, and to include them as full partners in identifying their own needs and in developing, planning, implementing and assessing policies and programmes to meet those needs, with a view to ensuring their full and effective participation;

24. *Recognizes* that a considerable number of girl children are particularly vulnerable, including orphans, children living on the street, internally displaced and refugee children, children affected by trafficking and sexual and economic exploitation, children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, and children who are incarcerated or who live without parental support, and therefore urges States, with the support of the international community, where relevant, to take appropriate measures to address the needs of such children by implementing national, subregional and regional policies and strategies to build and strengthen governmental, community and family capacities to provide a supportive environment for such children, including by providing appropriate counselling and psychosocial support, and ensuring their safety, enrolment in school and access to shelter, good nutrition and health and social services on an equal basis with other children;

25. *Urges* all States and the international community to respect, promote and protect the rights of the girl child, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities of the girl child in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations and in climate-related and other hazards and natural disasters, as well as in other humanitarian emergencies, all of which may result in the creation of child-headed households, and also urges States to take special measures for the protection of girls in all phases of humanitarian emergencies, from relief to recovery, and in particular to ensure that children have access to basic services, which include clean water, including safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, to protect them from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV infection, gender-based violence, including rape, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, torture, abduction and trafficking, including forced labour, paying special attention to refugee and displaced girls, and to take into account their special needs in disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation assistance and reintegration processes;

26. *Deplores* all acts of sexual exploitation, abuse of and trafficking in women and children, including in humanitarian crises and by humanitarian workers and peacekeepers, including military, police and civilian personnel involved in United Nations operations, welcomes the efforts undertaken by United Nations agencies and peacekeeping operations to implement a zero-tolerance policy in this regard, and requests the Secretary-General or the Member States from which those humanitarian workers originate and personnel-contributing countries to continue to take all appropriate action necessary to combat these abuses by such personnel, including through the full implementation without delay of those measures adopted in the relevant General Assembly resolutions based on recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;[21]

27. *Calls upon* Member States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective child- and youth-sensitive measures to combat, eliminate and prosecute all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy within wider efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including by taking effective measures

[21] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/59/19/Rev.1).

against the criminalization of girls who are victims of exploitation and ensuring that girls who have been exploited receive access to the necessary psychosocial support, and in this regard urges Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, to fully and effectively implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons[22] and the activities outlined therein, with full respect for the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;[23]

28. *Reaffirms* that everyone has a right to a nationality as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[24] and in this regard calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider adopting and implementing nationality legislation consistent with their applicable obligations under international law and to facilitate the acquisition of nationality by and ensure free or low-cost birth registration for children born on their territories or their nationals abroad who would otherwise be stateless;

29. *Calls upon* Governments, civil society, including the media, and non-governmental organizations to promote human rights education and full respect for and the enjoyment of the human rights of the girl child, inter alia, through the translation, production and dissemination of age-appropriate and gender-sensitive information material on those rights to all sectors of society, in particular to children;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Labour Organization, take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child in country programmes of cooperation in accordance with national priorities, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

31. *Requests* all human rights treaty bodies and the human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, including the special procedures, to adopt regularly and systematically a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on the qualitative analysis of violations of the human rights of women and girls, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination in that regard;

32. *Requests* States to ensure that, in all policies and programmes designed to provide comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, particular attention and support are given to the girl child at risk, living with or affected by HIV, including pregnant girls and young and adolescent mothers and

[22] Resolution 64/293.

[23] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[24] Resolution 217 A (III).

girls with disabilities, and child heads of households, with a view to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3, in particular the target of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030;

33. *Invites* States to promote initiatives aimed at reducing the prices of antiretroviral drugs, especially second-line drugs, available to the girl child, including bilateral and private sector initiatives as well as initiatives on a voluntary basis taken by groups of States, including those based on innovative financing mechanisms that contribute to the mobilization of resources for social development, including those that aim to provide further access to drugs at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, and in this regard takes note of the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID;

34. *Calls upon* all States to integrate food and nutritional support with the goal that children, especially girl children, have access at all times to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food requirements for an active and healthy life;

35. *Calls upon* States to ensure that social protection programmes, including HIV-sensitive programmes, are provided to orphans and other vulnerable children, with particular attention to addressing the needs and vulnerabilities of girl children, ensuring school attendance and protecting their rights;

36. *Urges* States and the international community to increase resources at all levels, particularly in the education and health sectors, so as to enable young people, especially girls, to gain the knowledge, attitudes and life skills that they need to fulfil their social, economic and other potential and overcome their challenges, including the prevention of HIV infection and early pregnancy, and to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health;

37. *Urges* States, the international community, relevant United Nations entities, civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of financial resources and technical assistance, efforts to address the situation of child-headed households;

38. *Strongly calls upon* States and the international community to create an environment in which the well-being of the girl child is ensured, inter alia, by cooperating, supporting and participating in global efforts towards the full and timely realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[6] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[7] and of all other relevant internationally agreed development goals, in particular for the eradication of poverty at the global, regional and country levels, recognizing that strengthened availability and effective allocation of resources are required at all levels in this regard, and reaffirming that investment in children, particularly girls, and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution, including a status analysis on improvements in the social, economic and political investments made by Member States towards fulfilling the right to education for the girl child, using information provided by Member States, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of the girl child;

40. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in that report information on the implementation of the provisions of resolution 68/146 relating to the priority theme of child-headed households and a status update on the situation and prevalence of child-headed households globally.

80th plenary meeting
17 December 2015